Core Course II (BP7521): Preaching as the Proclaimed Word
June 3-7, 2013
Luther Seminary Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching
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Course Description
In a workshop setting, the relationship between speech performance, content, form, style, and context in preaching will be explored. Particular attention will be given to writing for the ear, preaching with and without a manuscript, visual and vocal engagement, embodiment and gesture, confidence, authenticity, and the theological and communicative role of the preacher in particular contexts, communities and traditions.

Course Objectives
Participants should take from this class into their respective ministries of preaching:
--a theological understanding of the spoken and embodied word in proclaiming the gospel
--the development of speech communication skills and abilities, and identification of areas for continued personal growth
--an ability to read and perform Scripture texts with passion, authority, and authenticity, and an understanding of the value of this exegetical and interpretive practice
--an ability to choose from a range of performative options for creating and preaching sermons
--the vital role of hearers and communities in the creation and preaching of sermons
--a developing sense of vocational identity, skill, and confidence in the communicative role of the preacher

Required Texts:
*Additional required articles, chapters and papers are posted on e-reserves.

Required Work
Attendance at all class sessions and active participation
Course readings
Course residency assignments
Post-residency assignments

Class Procedures
Each participant will present:
--an extemporaneous oral/aural composition;
--a performance of a scripture text
--the beginning of a sermon;
--a sermon section with story, image, or life experience;
--the ending of a sermon;
Residency Assignments

Assignment I (for Tuesday, June 4, 1:00 p.m.), Performance of Scripture.
Learn by heart any biblical text from the Revised Common Lectionary. Come prepared to present to the class an embodiment/performance of this text. Use the attached handout “Developing a Scripture Text for Performance” to guide your work on the performance.

Assignment II (for Wednesday, June 5, 8:30 a.m.), Performative Interpretation.
Based on your work on the scripture text that you presented in the “Performance of Scripture” assignment, and using what you learned about the text from performing and working on it during the class on Tuesday, please write a short portion of a sermon on this scripture passage. This could be any part of the sermon (opening, middle, ending), and should be not more than 3 minutes in length. Be sure to use the insights gained from performing this text in developing this sermon portion. As you will need to incorporate insights gleaned from the in-class work on this text on Tuesday, please plan to set aside time on Tuesday evening to complete this assignment.

Assignment III (for Wednesday, June 5, 1:00 p.m.), Beginning the Sermon.
Come prepared to preach the opening of any sermon. If you are using a manuscript (not required), it would be approximately the first one to two pages, double spaced. You may use the opening from a sermon you have previously preached or one you are planning to preach in the future.

Assignment IV (for Thursday, June 6, 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.), Image, Story and Experience.
Come prepared to preach a section of any sermon that contains imagery, story, or personal experience (often called “sermon illustrations”). This section may be from a sermon you have previously preached or one you are planning to preach in the future. It may be from the same sermon as Assignment III, or it may be from a completely different sermon.

Assignment V (for Friday, June 7, 8:30 a.m.), Ending the Sermon.
Come prepared to preach the ending of any sermon. If you are using a manuscript (not required), it would be approximately the last one to pages, double spaced. You may use the ending from a sermon you have previously preached or one you are planning to preach in the future. It may be from the same sermon as Assignments III or IV, or it may be from a completely different sermon.

Post-residency Assignments

Assignment One (Due August 31): Write a five-page paper that explores the implications of the course for your own theology and practice of preaching. How have the course’s emphases on body, voice, imagination, sacraments, worship, and community influenced your theological understanding of preaching?

Assignment Two (Due October 15): Prepare, preach, and record one sermon for the Sunday of September 22 or 29. Please review this sermon in your PRG, using the questions distributed during the Core II Course. In developing this sermon, incorporate exercises or themes from the course that engage body, voice and imagination in bringing the sermon to life. Based on the PRG discussion, the sermon recording, and your own experience of the sermon, write a five-page paper that reflects on what you did differently in the sermon as a result of the Core II Course. What changed in your use of body, voice, imagination, or your relationship to the community and the rest of the worship service? What are your
next steps in developing your preaching voice so as to further integrate these elements into your preaching?

Please note that in addition to these two assignments, you are required to submit a PRG Summary Report as part of completing the requirements for this course. Further details about this Report can be found on page 5 of your Doctor of Ministry Handbook.

Class Schedule

**Monday, June 3, 2013**
2:00-5:00  Introductions  
Orientation to the Course  
*Extemporaneous Oral/Aural Composition (no preparation)*

**Tuesday, June 4, 2013**
8:30-10:50  Freeing the Natural Voice: The Presence of the Preacher

11:00-12:50  Chapel and Lunch Break

1:00-5:00  Performance of Scripture  
*Assignment I*

**Wednesday, June 5, 2013**
8:30-10:50  Text to Sermon: Performative Interpretation  
*Assignment II*

11:00-12:50  Chapel and Lunch Break

1:00-5:00  Writing for the Ear and Eye  
Beginning the Sermon  
*Assignment III*

**Thursday, June 6, 2013**
8:30-10:50  Image, Movement and Gesture  
Image, Story and Experience in Preaching  
*Assignment IV*

11:00-12:50  Chapel and Lunch Break

1:00-5:00  Image, Story and Experience in Preaching (continued)  
*Assignment IV (continued)*

**Friday, June 7, 2013**
8:30-10:50  Sermon Endings  
*Assignment V*  
Word as Sacrament

Discussion of Post-residency Assignments  
Wrap Up.